

**CHILD ABDUCTION
FIRST RESPONDING OFFICER CHECKLIST**

RESPOND

RESPOND to ANY **disappearance of a child as an Abduction Case until further information is developed.** CHILD ABDUCTION BY A FAMILY MEMBER **must be treated as an urgent missing child investigation.** ALWAYS **consider the child endangered until proven otherwise.**

WITHOUT DELAY BROADCAST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO: All police communication channels, other patrol officers, other law enforcement agencies, and consider AMBER ALERT.

GATHER DATA RELEVANT TO THE INITIAL RESPONSE: interview reporting party & witnesses

- Ensure child is missing
- Description of child
- Circumstances of disappearance
- Description of alleged perpetrator (if known)
- Description of vehicle
- Initial determination of abduction type
- Risk assessment (see risk assessment checklist)

YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY

- Establish and secure the crime scene
 - Additional personnel and supervision
- NOTIFY**
- Additional personnel and supervision
 - Highway Patrol

ENTER INFORMATION INTO

The Department of Justice Missing Person System (MUPS/NCIC)

GATHER ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIVE DATA

- Photograph & other identifying data
- Re: child (and abductor-suspect, if known)
- Detailed family history
- Locations of other family members
- School, health and other info re: child
- Possible destinations

PRIOR TO LEAVING THE SCENE ADVISE FAMILY

- How to access victim witness services
- Can offer DNA if child is missing 30 days

IF APPROPRIATE, NOTIFY THE:

- District Attorney's Family Child Abduction Unit
- Local office of the FBI
- Media
- Amber Alert
- National Center For Missing & Exploited Children
- Missing children nonprofit organizations

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

DOJ Missing & Unidentified
Persons Unit..... (916) 227-3290

DOJ Missing Children Hotline (800) 222-FIND
(3463)

California Highway Patrol **or**
nearest CHP Communications (800) TELL-CHP
Center..... (835-5247)

FBI

Los Angeles (310) 996-5000
Sacramento (916) 481-9110
San Diego (858) 565-1255
San Francisco..... (415) 553-7400

National Center for Missing &
Exploited Children..... (800) 843-5678

Missing Children Organizations:

District Attorney's Child Abduction Unit

Sponsored by

The California Child Abduction Task Force
and
The Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Children's Section
(916) 323-7449

This checklist is a suggested guide, but is not all-inclusive.
Local jurisdictions may have protocols with varying requirements.

**CHILD ABDUCTION & RISK OF DANGER TO
CHILD ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

**ALWAYS consider the child endangered until
proven otherwise.**

ABDUCTOR-SUSPECT INFORMATION

- Prior threats to abduct child
- Prior abductions and/or prior concealments
- Has strong family ties in other states or countries
- Unwed parents
- Criminal history
- Has a weapon/access to a weapon
- Has/is threatening suicide
- Child taken without any personal items
- Recently been fired from employment
- Recently quit employment
- Made verbal threats to harm custodian/child
- Major deviation from normal behavior pattern
- Prior incidence of violence
- History of Domestic Violence/Child Abuse
- Chronic alcoholism/drug use
- Currently Under the Influence
- Mental illness
- Registered sex offender
- History of Stalking
- History of violent criminal acts
- Custody battle/recent divorce or separation
- Potential of International Abduction
- Has passport & support system outside U.S.
- Child has current passport
- Signs of pre-abduction plans to leave the U.S.
- Cumulative recent "stressors" and/or loss of "control" over personal life or other individuals

MOTHER ABDUCTOR-SUSPECT INFORMATION

(Additional factors common to female caretaker abductors)

- Allegations of child abuse by male custodian/father
 - Allegations are supported by mother's family
 - Child under age six
 - Recent court hearing/decision regarding custody
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CHILD(REN) INFORMATION

- Is within at-risk age group
 - Is preschool age or younger
 - Knows own address and telephone number
 - Knows how to dial 911
 - No or limited English-speaking ability
 - Acute Serious Health Concern
 - Chronic Serious Health Concern
 - Requires Medication
 - Developmentally Delayed
 - Physical Disability
 - Child is Drug Dependent
 - Potential violence or sexual abuse of victim
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CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Potential "Honor Killing"
 - Potential unwilling victim of "Marriage Abduction"
 - Child seen as rightful property of abducting party
 - Potential maiming such as, female circumcision
 - Mixed culture marriage relationship
 - Parents are members of a religious cult, militia, or other extremist group
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